

This publication was supported in whole or in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the State of Tennessee.

“Window to the World” is published quarterly by the Tennessee Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Tennessee State Library and Archives, Department of State. It is available on cassette, in braille, and on the web at [www.tennessee.gov/TSLA/lbph](http://www.tennessee.gov/TSLA/lbph). Please call the Library at (800) 342-3308 to request alternate formats.

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Department of State, Authorization No. 305303, 6,500 copies, November 2007. This public document was promulgated at a cost of \$.06 per copy.

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# Window to the World

Fall, 2007 Vol. 11, No. 4

Ed Byrne, Editor

Newsletter of the Tennessee Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped

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## Aaron's the Boss

Tennessee now has an official Boss Readin' Wrangler. It's nine year-old Aaron Williamson of Jackson, who carried off the grand prize in our summer *Rompin' Stompin' Reading Roundup*. TSLA Children's Librarian Julie Duke reports:

“We had a great response for the first LBPH Summer Reading Program. Twenty-five young people ages six to twenty-one signed up. These contestants reported reading a total of 420 books during the Roundup. All the students who returned their reading records received incentive awards for their participation. And each book read earned its reader one entry in our grand prize drawing.

“Aaron stacked the drawing odds in his favor by reading a total of 172 books, an intensive effort that gave him the inside track on our grand prize. As the winner of our drawing, he'll get to choose three books in the format of his choice, to add to his own library.

“‘Wow,’ reports Aaron's mother Sheila Williamson. “Aaron is so proud. He is lying on the couch reading a *Magic Tree House* book this very moment. He has worked harder for this than anything his entire life.’”

Comments like these are music to a librarian's ears. So LBPH director Ruth Hemphill is already drawing up plans for next year's Summer Reading Program. Stay tuned to this newsletter for more details.

## NLS Announces BARD

For patrons who haven't already heard it through the grapevine, NLS has expanded its download pilot test program to include any patron with a player capable of reading its new Digital Talking Book (DTB) files. The expanded and re-titled **Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD)** program allows patrons to download digital talking book files over the Internet and play them back through a DTB-enabled player. You can apply for this program on line at [www.nlstalkingbooks.org/dtb/](http://www.nlstalkingbooks.org/dtb/).

There is one catch: our new DTB-enabled players won't become available until next spring at the earliest. For early-adopter patrons who just can't wait until our DTB players arrive, the only alternative is to buy a commercial DTB player. To help them select one, NLS has published a new fact sheet, “Digital Audiobook Players,” available at [www.loc.gov/nls/reference/factsheets/audiobkplayers.html](http://www.loc.gov/nls/reference/factsheets/audiobkplayers.html). Or call your reader advisor to have a printout mailed to you.

Address correction requested

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Free Matter for the Blind  
and Handicapped

### **Veterans: Confirm Your Priority**

The state and federal laws that govern our program mandate that U.S. armed services veterans enjoy priority in the distribution of all materials. So we will be giving our Tennessee veterans dibs on the new DTB players when we begin receiving them.

If you are a veteran, please contact us soon to confirm your standing. We want to make sure that you receive the priority your sacrifices have earned.

### **Win Some, Lose Some**

Here's another good news/bad news article about books for the blind and physically handicapped. The good news is that Bookshare.org, the online downloading service, has received \$32 million in federal funding to make its memberships free for students with print disabilities. To find out more, check out [www.bookshare.org](http://www.bookshare.org).

Another good news item comes from Seedlings, publisher of low-cost braille books for children. The Seedlings "Rose Project" provides World Book Encyclopedia articles in braille free-of-charge for blind students in grades 1-12. To order an article, contact Seedlings Braille Books toll-free at (800) 777-8552; by e-mail at [Seedlink@aol.com](mailto:Seedlink@aol.com); or online at [www.seedlings.org](http://www.seedlings.org) (click on "Special Projects").

The bad news is that Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic (RFBD) is no longer circulating titles on cassette. RFBD will now rely exclusively on compact discs. For more details on this change, call RFBD at 1-800-221-4792 or visit [www.rfbd.org](http://www.rfbd.org).

### **Staff Profile: A New Voice**

As many of you know by now, reader advisor Clara Ledbetter retired on October 4 after

20 years of service to visually impaired and physically handicapped readers in just about every community in Tennessee. We'd like to think she's relaxing around her Columbia home as you read this, sipping a strong cup of her favorite Community coffee. But odds are she's splitting all her time between Atlanta and Pensacola, where her two sets of beloved grandchildren live.

For a person with very small feet, Clara leaves some very large shoes to fill. So we recruited Sarah Kanervo to take her place. (Just kidding; Sarah's feet aren't really *that* big.)

A native of Clarksville, where both her parents teach at Austin Peay State University, Sarah graduated from Nashville's Belmont University in 2004 as a Bachelor of Business Administration in Music Business. Over the past six years she has worked in a variety of music promotion and management businesses, in both Nashville and New York. She's also a member of the Country Music Association and the Academy of Country Music. So, in addition to serving the R-Z segment of our patron population, she will serve as official LBPH adviser on the music scene.

Sarah also has a special interest in the lore and literature of vampires. We're not sure if this interest grows out of her experiences in the music business. But, if we do start to sound a little pale and anemic, you'll know who to blame.

Please join us in making Sarah feel welcome.

### **LBPH Patrons Recommend**

- Water for Elephants, by Sara Gruen, (RC 62718/LP 09968) and Glass Castle: A Memoir, by Jeannette Walls (RC 61540), recommended by Kathryn Dahlhauser of Kingston.

- Can't Wait to Get to Heaven (RC 62789), by Fannie Flagg, recommended by J. D. and Helen Cooke.

- The Saga of the Skollian Empire Series by Catharine Asaro, in ten volumes beginning with Primary Inversion (RC 56734), recommended by Laura Brackbill.

- "AARP: the Magazine" on Newline, the NFB telephone reading service, recommended by Becca Brasfield. (Also available on cassette.)

### **Techno-notices**

Jim Daily, a Montana LBPH patron, claims to have found the solution to a problem afflicting many LBPH patrons: falling asleep while listening to a talking book and then having to rewind forever the next morning. Daily's solution, which he calls the "Talking Book Marker," is a switch that plugs into the REM port on the side of the C1 player.

The drowsy reader holds the device in his or her hand. As long as the switch remains closed, play continues. When the gentle reader lapses into slumber, his/her grip relaxes, opening the switch and turning the player off.

Mr. Daily markets this invention himself, for a total cost of \$18.00. If you are interested, you may call him at 406-782-2202 or write to him at 835 Emma, Butte, MT, 59701.

### **Holiday Closures**

*Christmas* - Monday 12/24/07

Tuesday 12/25/07

*New Year's* - Monday 12/31/07

Tuesday 01/01/08

### **Round 'Em Up, Head 'Em Out, Send 'Em Back**

The holidays are coming on fast, and we all know what they bring. That's right: along with Love, Joy, and Peace, the Christmas Season also brings Dramatic Slow Downs in Mail Service. So please remember to get your holiday book requests in to us well in advance. And please also remember to return your books ASAP. It takes as long or longer for a book to get back to us as it does to reach you in the first place.

We've always encouraged patrons to return books promptly, but these days overdue books represent an increasing problem for us. As the advent of the new DTB books approaches, we're under pressure to create shelf space for the new DTB titles. We're also under pressure to cut back on the number of duplicates we maintain. As a result, we have less time, money and space to replace older titles that are fast disappearing from our shelves.

Please take a few minutes to check around the house for LBPH books that may have slipped behind the cushions or under the bed. Send them back to us today along with that book you've been holding on to for months but just never do get around to reading. We can always send you a copy when you decide you finally are ready to read it.

Like other libraries in the NLS network, Tennessee's LBPH doesn't rely on fines to coerce your compliance. Instead we rely on your cooperation and good will. Please do give us a hand in keeping our circulation efforts prompt and efficient. (And remember that, with Christmas coming, Santa is keeping a special list of the boys and girls who don't send LBPH books back on time. Don't blame us if you find a lump of coal in your stocking Christmas morning.)